



# The Maine Farmer: An Agricultural and Family Newspaper.

## Maine Farmer.

Augusta, Sept. 6, 1879.

TERMS OF THE MAINE FARMER.

\$2.00 IN ADVANCE, OR \$2.50 IF NOT PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS OF DATE OF SUBSCRIPTION.

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### Collectors' Notices.

Mr. S. A. Ayer, Agent for the FARMER, will call upon our subscribers to pay their bills during September.

Mr. J. C. Clark, our Agent, will call upon our subscribers to pay their bills during September.

Mr. N. T. Tabor will call upon our subscribers in Hancock during the month of September.

Field Day of Maine Historical Society.

The Maine Historical Society had its annual Field Day at Monhegan, Damariscotta, and other places of interest in the vicinity, on the 17th of August. The day before was the one designated, but it being stormy and foggy, it was postponed for one day, and in consequence, the attendance was smaller than it otherwise would have been. The Committee, consisting of A. G. Tenney, of Brunswick, R. K. Sewall, of Wiscasset, and Wm. Gould, of Windham, had made all necessary arrangements, and much credit is due them for the faithful manner in which their duties were performed. The objects of the Committee were to find, if possible, the harbor where Captain George Weymouth lay in 1605, and by this Pentecostal Harbor, to learn the rock writings; and to trace the course of Champlain in 1606 through the passage between the Sheepscot and the Kennebec.

It is well known that the student of History has given the name of Weymouth to 1605 as the first voyage west from England on the American continent. Gosnold had sailed along the coast of Maine in 1603, and Martin Pring had discovered Penobscot bay and Casco bay in 1603, and had sailed six miles up the Saco river. Weymouth's westerly course brought him to Monhegan Island, eighteen miles north of Boothbay. He anchored three miles north of the island, which he named St. George, in honor of his patron saint, and remained upon the coast for several weeks, proceeding in his pinnace sixty miles up a most excellent river, and carrying home with him five Indians, three of whom he gave to Sir Ferdinando Gorges, by whom one of them was sent back in 1607 with Captain George Popham. James Rosier, an English gentleman, who accompanied Captain Weymouth as chronicler, wrote a glowing account of the newly discovered country in 1605, but omitted all names and observations of latitude and longitude, in order to prevent navigators of other nations seeking the same spot. The consequence has been that the river has been guessed to be the Hudson, the James, the Saco, and more recently the Penobscot, the Kennebec, and the arm of the sea north of Monhegan, running up to South Thomaston and known as the St. George.

Dr. Belknap, author of a History of New Hampshire, thought that the Penobscot was the river ascended by Weymouth, and this opinion was generally followed until the late John McKeen, of Brunswick, suggested that Rosier's description better fitted the Kennebec, and a few years later the Rev. David Cushman of Warren, contended that the St. George river was intended. All these conjectures were set at rest by the publication in 1849, by the Hakluyt Society (and afterward by the Historical Societies of Maine and Massachusetts,) of William Strachey's account of the Popham settlement, written not later than 1618, and preserved in manuscript in the British Museum. Strachey was the secretary of the Virginia company, and was in Virginia from 1610 to 1612. He says, in so many words, that Captain Weymouth made a speech "sixty miles up the most excellent and beneficial river of the Sachabebow," and that Weymouth reported on the occasion of the expedition that Captain Popham, in 1607, when an attempt was made to found a colony on the Sagadahoc. But the Sagadahoc is only another name for the Kennebec below Merrymeeting bay, including the waters which flow out through the Sheepscot, and the Sheepscot itself, which may be regarded as one of the mouths of the Kennebec.

It is now quite generally believed that the Kennebec was the river described and ascended by Weymouth, although some still adhere to the St. George. The Penobscot is regarded as out of the question, and the St. George is only twenty miles in length, while Weymouth's search extended inland sixty miles, in the direction from Monhegan of certain high mountains, which are believed to be the White Mountains. Mr. Sewall says he has seen the White Mountains from the deck of a vessel five miles east of Monhegan. The light keeper on the island also affirms that they are visible in clear weather from the island. The committee had provided a telescope hoping to verify these statements, but the hazy atmosphere prevented its use. Rosier says that as the sea was too open of Monhegan, Captain Weymouth found a safe harbor among the islands about three leagues toward the mainland, in the direction of the mountains. The entrances to this harbor and the islands are minutely described, and some islands which answer the description remarkably, are found near the St. George river; but this is out of Weymouth's course. Mr. R. K. Sewall pointed out a cove between Falmouth's island and the mainland, of the Damariscotta group, which he believes to be the Penobscot harbor.

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